

REMARKS

Claims 1, 37, 40 and 41 have been amended. New claims 43-50 have been added. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 37-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,129,440 issued to Reynolds et al. (hereinafter “Reynolds”). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Reynolds does not teach a light guide that directs light from a light source onto a small region of the inner surface of a housing in order to create a shaped indicator image at the outer surface of a housing. In contrast, Reynolds describes a light pipe 20B that includes a status indicator face 40 at one end of the light pipe which is *itself* visible through an opening in an electronic device housing. That is, the light pipe 20B of Reynolds does not illuminate a portion of the **inner surface** of a housing in order to create a shaped indicator image at the **outer surface** of the housing as specifically required by claim 1.

In particular, Reynolds describes an electronic device 10 that includes a front panel 11 having an “ovoid-shaped opening 12, within which the switch 20 is provided having a status indicator face 40 (See FIG. 4 and column 6 lines 28-42).” Of particular note, whether the status indicator face 40 is illuminated or not, the indicator face 40 is always visible from the outside of the housing since the face extends within the ovoid-shaped opening 12 within the front panel 11 of the electronic device 10.

While it is believed that claim 1 as pending at the time of last examination is not anticipated by Reynolds, claim 1 has been amended to expedite prosecution of the present application to specifically require, “ a light guide that directs light emitted from the at least one light source so as to illuminate a small region of an **inner surface** of the housing adjacent the specific small region of the outer surface of the housing in order to create the shaped indicator image at the specific small region of the **outer surface** of the housing.” Claim 1 has also been amended to specifically require that “**the indicator assembly is not visible from outside the outer surface of the housing at least when deactivated.**” Of particular note, the claimed computing device can be arranged such that the shaped indicator image and associated indicator assembly are not visible when deactivated and, in some embodiments, even when activated.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the art of record and that the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 37 recites similar limitations as those recited in claim 1 and hence, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 37 should also be withdrawn as well for at least similar reasons to those described above with respect to claim 1.

Dependent claims 3-7 and 38-42, which depend either directly or indirectly on independent claims 1 or 37, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 37. Furthermore, these dependent claims require additional limitations that when considered in the context of the present invention further patentable distinguish the art of record. In particular, claim 5 as pending at the time of last examination already recited the limitation that “the light is made **incident on a translucent portion of the housing**, the translucent portion **transmitting light without permitting objects disposed behind it from being distinctly seen.**”

New dependent claims 43 and 44, dependent upon claims 1 and 37 respectively, have been added to recite that the indicator assembly is configured to turn the shaped indicator image on and off or cycle the shaped indicator image with increasing or decreasing intensity when in a sleep mode of the computing device. Support for this claim can be found at paragraph [00197], which recites, “In order to alert a user to a particular status of the computer system 750, each of the components (base, monitor) may include an indicator 760. For example, each of the components may include a power/sleep indicator that alerts a user as to when the components are on/off or in a sleep mode. The indicators 760 are typically illuminated when the component is on, and not illuminated when the component is off. Furthermore, the indicator may turn on and off or cycle with increasing or decreasing intensity (ebb) when in sleep mode.”

New independent claim 45 recites limitations similar to those recited in claims 1 and 37. It is respectfully submitted that claim 45 and its associated dependents claims 46-50 are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 37 are patentable. Particularly, claim 45 recites, “an indicator disposed internal of the housing and configured to illuminate a **specific small portion of an external surface** of the housing to form a shaped indicator image associated with an event of the computing device, the indicator image appearing on the external surface of the housing when the indicator is on, **the indicator image disappearing from the external surface of the housing when the indicator is off**, wherein the indicator image is only formed at the external surface of the housing when the indicator is turned

on, wherein only the housing is visible and there is no trace of the indicator on the external surface of the housing when the indicator is off, and wherein the indicator does not form substantial breaks, lines, pits, and protrusions in the external surface of the housing.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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